

REMARKS

Status of the claims:

With the above amendment, claim 47 has been canceled. Thus, claims 1-46 and 48-50 are pending and claims 39-41 and 48-50 have been withdrawn from a prior election of species requirement. Accordingly, claims 1-38 and 42-46 are ready for further action on the merits. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner cancel claim 47 to put the application in better form for appeal because the number of issues will be reduced.

Restriction/Election of Species

Applicants respectfully request that the election of species requirement be withdrawn as it is believed that it would not be an undue burden on the Examiner to search all the claims.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for not showing all of the features of the claimed invention. Applicants submit that a drawing is not necessary to understand the claimed invention. Accordingly, no further drawings are included with the instant Reply.

Double Patenting

The Examiner has objected to claim 47 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 45. Applicants have canceled claim 47 so Applicants believe that the objection has been obviated. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21, 23-25, and 30 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peker '642 (US Patent No. 5,896,642).

Claims 1-20, 22, 26-29 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peker '642 in view of Kobayashi '742 (US Patent No. 5,611,742).

Claims 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peker '642 in view of Kobayashi '742 and further in view of Anderson '663 (US Patent No. 5,261,663).

Claim 44 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peker '642 in view of Anderson '663.

Claims 1, 5, and 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peker '642 in view of Kobayashi '501 (US

Patent No. 5,601,501) and further in view of Sieleman '005 (US Patent No. 5,792,005).

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to the response of May 7, 2003 to address these rejections.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg. No. 50,990), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

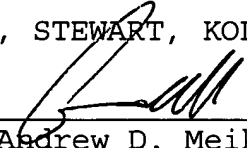
Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of two (2) months to November 7, 2003 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$420.00 is attached herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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